

REMARKS

In connection with the filing of an RCE, entry of this Preliminary Amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 25 and 29-38 will be pending in the application. Claim 25 has been amended and claims 29-38 have been added.

Claims 1-5, 9-13, 17-21, and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Sicard, U.S. Patent No. 3,674,154. Claims 1-5, 9-13, 17-21, and 26-28 have been cancelled, so the rejection of these claims is moot. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider this rejection of claim 25 based on the amendments to claim 25 and the following comments.

Claim 25 is directed to a filter screen that includes, among other things, a first plurality of filaments extending in a first direction and a second plurality of filaments extending in a second direction transverse to the first direction. The second plurality of filaments are woven with the first plurality of filaments. The filter screen also includes one or more first reinforcing filaments woven with the second plurality of filaments to reinforce the second plurality of filaments in the first direction, and one or more second reinforcing filaments woven with the first plurality of filaments to reinforce the first plurality of filaments in the second direction.

Sicard does not disclose the filter screen as recited in claim 25. As shown in Fig. 1, Sicard discloses a filtration apparatus having a filtering member 10 that includes an inner screen 12 mechanically supported by an outer layer 14. The screen 12 and the layer 14 are bonded together by welding or brazing (see col. 1, lines 60-65). The filtering member 10 of Sicard does not disclose one or more first reinforcing filaments woven with the second plurality of filaments to reinforce the second plurality of filaments in the first direction, and one or more second reinforcing filaments woven with the first plurality of filaments to reinforce the first plurality of filaments in the second direction as recited in claim 25. That is, Sicard fails to disclose any reinforcing filaments that are woven with woven first and second plurality of filaments. Accordingly, Sicard cannot anticipate claim 25 and, therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 25 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 9-13, and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Koehler, U.S. Patent No. 4,613,369. Also, claims 1-5, 9-13, and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Webb et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,373,615. Claims 1-5, 9-13, and 17-21 have been cancelled, so the rejection of these claims is moot.

New claims 29-38 have been added to recite additional aspects of embodiments of the invention. Claims 29-32 should be allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 25, and additionally allowable for their recitation of additional patentable subject matter. With respect to new independent claims 33 and 36, none of the cited references disclose or suggest, inter alia, a filter screen that includes reinforcing filaments produced by brazing as recited in claim 33, and a filter screen that includes reinforcing filaments produced by welding as recited in claim 36.

All rejections have been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Should there be any questions or concerns regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Karceski", is written over a circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP" at the top, "JEFFREY D. KARCESKI" in the middle, and "Reg. No. 35,914" and "Tel. No. (703) 905-2110" at the bottom.

JEFFREY D. KARCESKI

Reg. No. 35,914

Tel. No. (703) 905-2110

Date: August 13, 2004
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000